

REMARKS

The allowance of Claims 31 and 32 is again noted with appreciation.

The final Office action included rejections of Claims 25-26, 33-34 and 37 as allegedly being anticipated by Mantel et al.; the Applicant respectfully submits that with the amendments presently made to Claim 25 all claims are allowable.

Claim 25 has been amended to recite that each print pixel corresponds to the area of overlap of the two or more super pixels which contribute print to that print pixel. Basis for this amendment may be found at: Page 6, lines 26-30; Page 7, lines 3-7; and Figure 5 of the PCT application as filed.

As has been noted in previous responses, according to the present invention redundancy is added to the printing operation on two levels. Firstly, a print data pixel contributes data to at least two super pixels so that if one of the super pixels fails to be printed, the print data pixel is still represented in the image by another super pixel. Secondly, a printed pixel receives print contributions from at least two super pixels so that failure to print of one of the super pixels does not result in a gap in the image.

The feature captured by the recited language of amended claim 25 relates to the second level of redundancy. If one of the super pixels is unprinted, another super pixel will – owing to its overlap – nonetheless contributes print over the area of the corresponding print pixel, thus avoiding a blank space on the substrate. Equally, in a particular example, if it is found that an actuator printing a line of super pixels is printing less effectively, a neighboring actuator may be assigned a greater amount of the print for the line of print pixels corresponding to the area of overlap between the lines of super pixels formed by the two actuators.

By contrast, Mantel et al. teaches overlap of the edges of ink dots formed on a substrate as in Figure 12. The intention of this overlap is to ensure complete substrate coverage with a reduced quantity of ink (Column 7, lines 10-25). Clearly, if one of the actuators (each denoted by a vertical line to the left-hand side of Figure 12) were to fail, a gap would appear in the printed image.

Therefore, Mantel et al. neither teaches nor suggests the claimed invention, the remaining claims being allowable at least by virtue of dependency. It is believed that the rejections under §103 are moot in view of the foregoing, favorable reconsideration is thus solicited.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, allowance of all claims 25-37 presented here above is solicited.

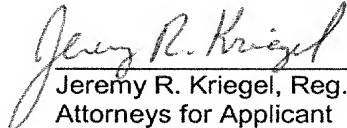
Should the examiner wish to discuss the foregoing, or any matter of form or procedure in an effort to advance this application to allowance, the examiner is urged to contact the undersigned attorney.

A petition for two month extension of time, with payment of requisite fees, is submitted herewith. In the event any additional fees are necessary, kindly charge the cost thereof to our Deposit Account No. 13-2855.

Respectfully submitted,

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